

REMARKS

This Amendment is filed in response to the Office Action dated January 6, 2009. Claims 1 – 4, 7 – 8, 10, 13, 21 – 22, and 25 have been previously canceled. Claims 12 and 27 are amended as detailed below. Upon entry of this Amendment, Claims 5 – 6, 9, 11 – 12, 14 – 20, 23 – 24, and 26 – 27 are pending.

Applicants have not dedicated or abandoned any unclaimed subject matter and moreover have not acquiesced to any rejections made by the Patent Office. Applicants reserve the right to pursue prosecution of any presently excluded claim embodiments in future continuation and/or divisional applications.

Allowable Subject Matter

Applicants acknowledge with appreciation the allowance of Claims 5, 6, 9, 11, 14 – 20, 23 – 24 and 26.

Claim Objections

The Examiner objects to Claims 12 and 27 for certain informalities. Claims 12 and 27 are amended to recite “... ceramics, metals, spastics, glass or organic polymers.” Applicants request that this objection be withdrawn.

Applicants respectfully submit that the application is now in condition for allowance.

Conclusion

In light of the above amendments and remarks, Applicants believe that the application is in condition for allowance. The Examiner is invited to call the undersigned attorney at (650) 843-4000, if a telephone call could resolve any remaining items. No fees are believed due. However, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any required fee(s) to Morgan, Lewis & Bockius LLP Deposit Account No. 50-0310 (order no. 067538-5172-US).

Respectfully submitted,

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